



# Bay Area Dioxins Project



Association of Bay Area  
Governments

## Summary of Discussions TASK FORCE MEETING May 22, 2002

Attending the meeting were:

Michelle Buzbee, LWA+  
JoAnna Bullock, ABAG Staff  
Andrew Clark-Clough, City of Oakland\*  
Betsy Elzufon, LWA+  
Pamela Evans, Alameda County\*  
Patrick Michael Hayes, City of Oakland\*  
Jennifer Krebs, ABAG Staff\*  
Kelly Moran, TDC Environmental+  
Michael Smith, ABAG Staff  
Kathleen VanVelser, ABAG Staff  
Julie Weiss, City of Palo Alto\*

(+ Task Force consultant, \* Task Force member)

### Welcome/Introductions

Jennifer Krebs convened the meeting and welcomed Task Force members. The Summary of Discussions for the March 28, 2002 Dioxins Task Force meeting were distributed.

### Public Comment Period - Speakers

- No members of the public were present.

### Information Sharing

Jennifer Krebs distributed an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) letter with their evaluation of the Screening Evaluation of Dioxins Pollution Prevention Options report.

### Dioxins Workshop/Vendor Fair

The Task Force began the meeting with a discussion of potential dates for the workshop/vendor fair. Jennifer Krebs stated that the original dates that the Task Force suggested were unavailable at the MetroCenter (proposed site of event). As an alternative she reserved the MetroCenter Auditorium for 9/9, 9/10, and 9/16. These dates did not work for the Task Force. The Task Force chose new potential dates (9/5, 9/12, and 9/18) and decided to look at other venues due to lack of availability of the MetroCenter Auditorium. Patrick Michael Hayes volunteered to check into potential venue spaces with the City of Oakland. (He followed up and was able to secure Hearing Room 3 in City Hall for September 18<sup>th</sup>.)

The Task Force then discussed the issue of what type of sessions should be included in the workshop/vendor fair. The following represents the sessions suggested by the Task Force members in attendance:

- 1) EPA dioxins reassessment update
- 2) Dioxins science updates related to water, air quality, and human health
- 3) Presentation of local dioxin resolutions in effect in the Bay Area

- 4) Update and status of the Dioxins Task Force Screening Evaluation report
- 5) Pollution prevention project updates for the Task Force's paper purchasing, building materials, and diesel projects

Pam Evans stated that the science update did not need to be overly long or technical. The target audience would not be likely to get more out of a detailed science session than they would from a basic overview of where the science currently stands on the issue. Julie Weiss agreed that the science section should be kept short with presentations being kept to 10-15 minutes.

A working group of the Dioxins Task Force will participate in a 10:00am conference call on June 6, 2002 to further discuss/refine the workshop/vendor fair proposals.

### **Purchasing Preference Project Update**

Michelle Buzbee gave the update for the Purchasing Preference Project. She stated that the paper purchasing project deliverables were finalized and distributed them to the Task Force. These deliverables included a purchasing preference FAQ, an information packet (policies, specifications, tips, and resources), and a cooperative purchasing opportunities handout.

Now that the paper-purchasing project deliverable were complete, the materials can now be posted on the Dioxin Task Force website. Michael Smith will post the FAQ and cooperative purchasing opportunities handout when he receives the files from Larry Walker Associates. Posting of the information packet will have to wait until either ABAG can get an intern to scan in the documents or EPA can get one of their staff to scan the packet as the documents are not available in electronic format.

Michelle then distributed a building materials project FAQ, information packet, and case study report. The building materials deliverables were considered complete, however the comment period on the documents would be open until the end of May.

Michelle also distributed two emails she received that she thought may be of interest to the Task Force. One of the emails involved the formation of a Paper Working Group by the Center for a New American Dream. The working group will work on reducing the environmental impacts of paper purchasing policies/procedures by government and private businesses. Michael Smith will participate in the group's initial conference call.

### **Medical Waste Project Update**

Kelly Moran updated the Task Force on the project. When asked if there would be any medical waste related vendors at the upcoming workshop/vendor fair, Kelly stated that the Medical Waste Project was not suited to the event as they are a completely different group than the target audiences for the event. Note that the medical waste project is a management, not procurement, oriented project and Bay Area hospitals are currently limited to one waste management firm for offsite management of their wastes.

Kelly reiterated that available cost data show that hospitals could save money with on-site autoclaving and that even off-site autoclaving should be cheaper than off-site incineration once Stericycle begins operating its planned autoclave facility in San Leandro. She is currently working on developing a set of materials for hospitals; recognizing that on-site or off-site autoclaving are the most realistic alternatives to incineration.

## **Diesel Alternatives Project Update**

Kelly Moran provided a draft memorandum, the draft work product for the diesel project, which was designed to provide information about grant and other funding opportunities for municipality diesel vehicle replacement/retrofit to address the primary barrier that Task Force members have identified in converting to cleaner vehicles, which is funding. She noted that diesel vehicle grant funding includes funding for heavy-duty vehicles, stationary engines, forklift, other non-vehicle diesel engines, as well as small trucks and other agency vehicles. She also noted that many water and sewer pumps are diesel, as are many forklifts. Some grant programs have preferences for funding retrofits in disadvantaged communities. Most grant programs evaluate applications based on the pollutant reductions—so replacing engines that operate a lot, and replacing old engines will be more likely to win grant funds than replacing newer diesel fleet vehicles. As a result, she encouraged Task Force members to check and see non-vehicle diesel engine conversion, particularly of engines that operate primarily in disadvantaged communities, is a possibility for their municipalities.

Andrew Clark-Clough noted that Caltrans has new transportation funds available for grant projects. Right now it looks as if the main focus is going to be on land use projects but he will check further to see if diesel alternative projects may be eligible for Caltrans funding.

Kelly noted that the Regional Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) fund might be the best chance/opportunity for diesel replacement projects to receive funding.

The municipalities agreed to provide comments on the draft memorandum to TDC Environmental by the end of May. After receiving all comments, TDC Environmental will revise and distribute the final memorandum, completing the project.

After discussing the target audience, possible speakers, and logistics of a planned project workshop, the municipalities decided that it would not be especially valuable to have a diesel grant funding workshop. Instead, they directed TDC Environmental to use the unspent funds for the workshop to continue to provide notices of grant availability (including the useful background information that TDC Environmental provided with previous notices) to the municipalities until funds are exhausted.

## **Public Comment Period - Speakers**

- No members of the public were present.

## **Adjournment**

Next meetings:

- June 20, 2002, 1:00 pm, Conference call (workshop/vendor fair discussions)
- July 31, 2002, 10:00am, ABAG Office, Conference Room B (to be followed by a screening of Blue Vinyl, a documentary on the health risks associated with PVC)